MARCH 1837.

In Assembly March 29. 1837

Memorial of the President & Professors of Hamilton College, in reference to a petition by the students ~~to~~ of that College to the Legislature of this State.

To the Honorable the Assembly of the State of New York

The undersigned, the Faculty of Hamilton College, have noticed with surprise the presentation of a petition before your honorable body, purporting to come from a portion of the students of this Institution. They say surprise, because it is unusual for any transaction like this to take place, as this actually has, without the slightest knowledge of any member of the Faculty; and because it seemed unaccountable, that young men who have been habitually ingenuous & orderly, should, in this instance, with remarkable secresy act a part equally at variance with the principles of the college government & with the judgment & feelings of every officer of the institution

The undersigned are constrained, from a regard to the important interests committed to their charge, to lay before your honorable body the following facts in the history of the case, as they appear on examination.

At an early period of the present session of the Legislature, a letter was received from a member of your honorable body, Mr C. C. Sheperd, from Geneva, by a student of one of the lower classes of the College, requesting him to get up, circulate for signature, & transmit to him a petition of the same notice as that recently presented to your honorable body. The proposition was not at that time complied with. A subsequent communication was received ~~for~~ by the same student from the same source, obviating objections & urging a compliance with the original request. These repeated applications from the member of your honorable body, were followed by the petition in question. A number of the signers disclaim all sympathy with the abolition societies; most of them say they were misled by the representations from Albany, & some, that they acted without reflection, on the solicitation of their fellows. Most of these signers are minors, many of them mere boys.

In consideration of the premises the undersigned ask the protection of your honorable body against the interference of any member or members of your honorable body in the internal concerns of the institution committed to their charge; & particularly, that the students thereof may not be invited to political action on any subject whatever, by any member of your honorable body, to the discredit & injury of the institution & in contravention of the principles on which its government has ever been conducted, & ever will be conducted by the undersigned.

(Signed officially by all the Faculty)

Hamilton 27th March 1837

Memorial of the Faculty of Hamilton College - on the subject of Colored persons to the Legislature by Students of the College March 1837

On the subject of Slavery to Colored Persons or persons of Runaway Slaves